



CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The 2017 National Conference held in Brisbane from 20 to 23 April was very successful and our thanks to the Conference Committee, the Queensland Branch Committee and the many volunteers who contributed so much effort to ensure the success of the conference. We have received very positive feedback for all of the conference activities from the opening session at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Cube and Old Government House on Thursday to the farewell lunch on Sunday.

The Forum and the Oration addressing the conference theme “**Innovating for Society**” were outstanding. Thanks to QUT, these sessions were recorded and arrangements are being made to make them available to Association members. I sincerely thank the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, and the Queensland Premier, the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, for hosting receptions which added a note of distinction to the conference and were enjoyed by members and guests.

The meetings of the Association held during the conference provided members with a platform for open and frank discussion. At the AGM, very ably chaired by our President Philip Flood AO, robust discussion provided clear directions to the Board. At the members’ session which followed, useful points were raised about recognition and promotion of the Order in the community. During the Regional Groups’ Forum several important issues were raised. These have been captured in a report prepared by Paul McNally OAM available to Branch Committees.

The Saturday members’ sessions concluded with a very memorable Gala Conference Dinner held in the historic Brisbane City Hall in the presence of the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove. In addition to addressing the very distinguished audience, the Governor-General also presented the Order of Australia Foundation 2017 Scholarships. I sincerely thank Sir Peter and Lady Cosgrove for making time in their very busy schedule to attend the Gala Dinner and enjoy with us an occasion to be remembered.

John Harden AM, FAIAS



The Vice-Regal Party at the Gala Conference Dinner at the 31st National Conference in front of the ornate marble stairway of the foyer of Brisbane City Hall received by the National President. L-R – Mrs Carole Flood; Mr Philip Flood AO, OAA National President; Her Excellency Lady Lynne Cosgrove; His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret’d), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia; Mrs Di Harden; and Associate Professor John Harden AM, OAA Queensland Branch Chairman.

OUR NEXT MORNING TEA – WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST – “YOTKOM UGANDA”

Please join us on Wednesday 30 August 2017 to take morning tea in the grand splendour of the Gold Room of the Queensland Club on the corner of George and Alice Streets in the historic precinct of the Brisbane CBD. Be uplifted and inspired while listening to **Dr Andrew Wright AM** and **Mrs. Annette Wright AM**, a committed husband and wife team recognized in this year’s Australia Day honours. They will tell their story about how they established Yotkom, a faith-based charity organisation that aims to provide better health services to the Acholi people of Northern Uganda.

The Yotkom Uganda story is a story like no other and one not to be missed.

The cost of the event is \$35 per person and a flyer and registration/ payment form with fuller details is included with this edition of *The Order*. There is ample free parking on site at the Queensland Club and the free City Loop bus stops right outside. Details on how to get there by this bus service are included in the flyer.

For enquiries contact Geoff Cowles OAM, our Secretary, on 3351 4991 or email secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

We hope to have the pleasure of your company at this special morning tea.



Dr Andrew Wright AM and Mrs Annette Wright AM.



The grand splendour of The Queensland Club.

2017 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS HONOURED AT HILLSTONE ST LUCIA WELCOME BRUNCH

On Thursday 4 May the Queensland Branch welcomed and congratulated sixteen of its newest award recipients from this year's Australia Day honours at a novel Welcome Brunch in the ornate Rosewood Room at Hillstone St Lucia in Brisbane's western suburbs. The Brunch concept of morning tea on arrival followed by the formalities, including introducing the award recipients, and concluding with a light lunch, proved a real hit with the 60 guests who attended.



Our award recipient guests of honour at the Hillstone St Lucia Welcome Brunch – *Back row from L to R* – Robert Bowen AO; Allan Pidgeon AM; Professor Robert Stimson AM; Dr Andrew Wright AM; Annette Wright AM; Gayle Alessio OAM; Wendy Drysdale OAM; Jack Lunn OAM; Paul Finch OAM; *Front row from L to R* – Libby Parkinson OAM; Robin Gallen OAM; Helen Mahoney OAM; Jenny Tidey OAM; Mary Peden OAM; Professor Catherine Turner AM. *Absent:* Tina Coco AO

HONOURING OUR SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

Don't forget that nominations for the **2017 Senior Volunteer Awards** close on 29 September 2017. Have you identified an outstanding senior volunteer from your community and nominated that woman or man for an award this year? This is a great way of honouring senior members of our communities who devote so much of their time and effort to serving community organisations as volunteers.

The Senior Volunteer Awards were established four years ago by the Queensland Branch of the Order of Australia Association as a means of providing public recognition to those thousands of senior volunteers (women and men sixty years and over) whose unheralded contributions to the community are so vital to the organisation and operation of our society.

Any Queensland member of our Association can submit a nomination. Nomination forms were included in the last issue of *The Order* (Edition 47 Autumn 2017). The nomination form can also be found at the Association's web-site in the Queensland section www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/branches/qld and you can print it out. The form is only two pages long and is easy to complete. If you know of a senior volunteer whom you believe should be considered for a Senior Volunteer Award 2017, please nominate that person.

Please get your completed nomination forms to the Queensland Branch Secretary, Geoff Cowles OAM, by 29 September. So don't delay – complete the form and send it today.

THE ANNUAL DINNER AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ARE MOVING TO MARCH 2018

The Annual Dinner and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will not be held this year in November.

Instead the Annual Dinner will be held on a date in March 2018. The Annual Dinner will be preceded by the AGM on the same evening, as has been the usual practice.

This is a necessary change as a consequence of the financial year now being from 1 January to 31 December.

Full details of the event will be published in the next edition of *The Order* due out in November this year. Once the date has been set the details will also appear in the Queensland segment

of the Association's website.

In lieu of an Annual Dinner in late November your Queensland Branch Committee has arranged for an interesting **morning tea event** on **6 December 2017** with a visit to the Queensland Ambulance Museum located in the Brisbane bayside suburb of Wynnum. Fuller details will be provided in the next edition of *The Order*. In the meantime make this a date claimer.

For enquiries contact Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary: telephone: 07 3351 4991; email secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Check out our website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



PRE AND POST CONFERENCE TOURS WELL RECEIVED BY CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Delegates at the 31st National Conference in Brisbane in April who registered for the pre and post conference tours gave these tours the “thumbs up”. They reported that the tours were an excellent opportunity to get to know each other better and they appreciated the opportunity to enjoy some fine scenery and visit several interesting tourist attractions of South East Queensland.

Two pre conference tours were offered; an overnight tour of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs where delegates met members of the local regional group and a day trip to the Gold Coast and Tamborine Mountains featuring a guided tour of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games site. A post conference tour of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland was also organised on the Monday after the Conference concluded.



Our interstate visitors and the Darling Downs Regional Group enjoy fellowship together over afternoon tea in a heritage Queensland railway carriage at the Downs Steam Railway Museum, Drayton, Toowoomba, as part of the overnight Toowoomba pre conference tour.

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND MEMBERS ENJOY MORNING COFFEE



At the June morning coffee event from L-R – John Hardy OAM; FNQ Regional Group Convener Carole Miller OAM; Myra Pincott AO; Gwen Brown and Cairns Councillor Jessie Richardson.

Members of the Far North Queensland Regional Group had a successful coffee morning at ‘Strait on the Beach’ at Holloways Beach on 5 June 2017. Our thanks go to Myra Pincott AO for organising the event and for obtaining publicity in *The Cairns Post*.

A Tablelands event was held at Tolga on Saturday 22 July. This included an interesting visit to the Rocky Creek WWII Igloo Restoration Project on the Kennedy Highway near Tolga and lunch at the historic tearooms at Lake Barrine.

Future plans include a function in October and a Christmas function in early December. After the success of last year, we will repeat the Christmas event at *Tenderhooks* at Yorkeys Knob Boat Club. Members will be notified of details of both events in due course.

Carole Miller OAM, Convener

SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BE RECOGNISED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY



Parliament House, Brisbane.

Members are encouraged to attend the Presentation of the 19th annual Secondary School Citizenship Awards at Parliament House in Brisbane on **Friday 15 September 2017**.

Her Honour Catherine Holmes, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, will present the awards to those outstanding secondary school students who have made significant contributions to society, through service to their school and their community.

Included with this edition of The Order is a promotional flyer with further details and a registration/payment form.

For enquiries please contact Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary by ‘phone on 07 3351 4991 or email to secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The Annual Luncheon of the Central Queensland Regional Group will be held on 11 September 2017 at the Rockhampton Leagues Club, Cambridge Street, Rockhampton. The function commences at 12.00 noon for fellowship followed by lunch at 12.30pm.

Guest Speaker at the function will be Brian Smith OAM. He will speak on the topic "Profile of sport in Rockhampton and District."

Raymond Young OAM, Convener

DARLING DOWNS REGIONAL GROUP CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF RAILWAY SERVICE TO TOOWOOMBA

On Friday 16 June more than sixty members and guests of the Darling Downs Regional Group enjoyed morning tea at *Inbound*, located in the historic Toowoomba Railway Station. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first train in Toowoomba in March 1867. Emeritus Professor Maurice French AM, a member of the Darling Downs Regional Group, gave a very interesting address which focused on the building of the railway line through the Toowoomba Range, part of the Great Dividing Range, and construction of the Toowoomba Railway Station, a large and imposing heritage building in the city.

Paul McNally OAM, Convener

GOLD COAST REGIONAL GROUP

The Gold Coast Regional Group held a lunch at the Southport Golf Club on Monday 5 June 2017. Attendance totalled 52 made up of members, relatives and friends. Geoff Cowles OAM, the Queensland Branch Secretary, was also in attendance.. The opportunity was taken to welcome and hear from three recent awardees in the Australia Day 2017 list - Keith Anderson OAM, Moreen Hull OAM and Robin Gallen OAM - and one from the Queen's Birthday 2016 list, Peter Heiner AM. The speaker was a local Association member Mrs Carolyn Hauff AM who spoke on "Generation Y - Who Are They?" Her remarks produced considerable discussion from those attending as clearly many of them have to answer that question.

Bill Collins AO, Convener

IN MEMORIAM

John Crook OAM
 Ronald James Davidson OAM
 David Dodds OAM
 James Bower Forwood AM
 John Harding AM
 Jack Hollingworth OAM
 Richard Raymond Johnston OAM
 Rev. Douglas Frederick Kirkup AM
 Martin Patrick Moynihan AO

George William Phillips OAM
 Cecilla Mackney Primmer OAM
 Robert Braye (Bob) Rogers AM
 Gary Sansom AM
 Winifred Schubert AO
 Concetto (Con) Antonio Sciacca AO
 Keith Smith OAM
 Ivan Albert Vonhoff OAM

QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP CONVENERS

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Sunshine Coast: Contact the Branch Secretary - secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Townsville: Mick Johnson OAM - michael.johnson25@defence.gov.au

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

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 Mrs Marjorie Voss OAM, Member
 Emeritus Professor Tony Webber
 AM, Member

Mr Raymond Young OAM, Member

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